

Wake County, NC — #1 of 10: Decline in Households Moving In, by Origin County

Wake County leads in outflow to Asheville

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published October 29, 2026

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THE DATA

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Decline in Households Moving In, by Origin County (2023)

Wake County, NC recorded the steepest drop in inbound households to the Asheville market between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

This decline of 40 households represents the largest drop among all U.S. counties sending residents to Asheville, indicating a significant shift in migration patterns from one of North Carolina's most populous regions. The data suggests that Asheville's appeal may be waning for certain demographic segments originating in high-density, high-income urban centers.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2021-22 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-29-asheville-mig-trend-origin-asc>

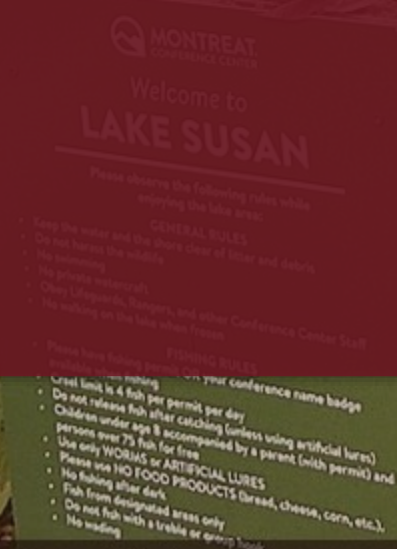


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01

Migration momentum is slowing from urban hubs

The fact that Wake County — a major source of high-income, educated professionals — is now sending fewer households to Asheville signals a potential saturation point in the region's ability to absorb new arrivals from traditional magnet markets. This may reflect rising cost-of-living pressures, tighter housing inventory, or evolving remote work preferences that no longer favor Asheville as a primary relocation destination for NC's urban elite.



02

Asheville's geographic exclusivity is under strain

As the top origin county shows a net outflow, it underscores that Asheville's market is no longer universally attractive across North Carolina's major metropolitan areas. This divergence suggests that the region's cultural and lifestyle appeal, while strong, may be losing its broad geographic dominance. The shift may signal a broader realignment in intra-state migration, where smaller, more affordable mountain towns could be gaining relative traction.



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